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9. DATE OF REPORT: 14 October 1968

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50X1 HUMINT

14. APPROVING AUTH: [REDACTED]

15. SUMMARY:

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(C/NFD) Report forwards a short summary of the events leading up to the firing and two-day house arrest of Major Brigadier ITAMAR ROCHA and the subsequent public accusations of misuse of the PARASAR unit (located at Alonsos Air Base). In addition to following the developments in the local press, [REDACTED]

50X1 HUMINT

In the past the reporting of these officers has always been very reliable. Attached (enclosure #1) is a translation of an article which appeared in a very reliable Brazilian newspaper, O Estado de Sao Paulo. The information in this article is practically identical to the information that was provided by the four mentioned officers.

FOIA(b)(3) - 10 USC 424 - DIA, NRO and NGA

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1. (C/NFD) During the past two weeks there have been numerous newspaper articles regarding Brazilian Air Force internal problems relating to the alleged use of a parachute rescue unit (PARA-SAR) in political affairs of the government. Principal figures associated with the problem are Air Minister MARCIO DE SOUZA E MELLO; former Air Minister EDUARDO GOMES; Brigadier JOAO PAULO MOREIRA BURNIER, Chief Minister's Cabinet Intelligence Division; and Brigadier ITAMAR ROCHA, Chief of Air Routes, FAB. The PARA-SAR unit allegedly was trained for certain operations (degree unknown) during student demonstrations, local uprisings, and, as the newspapers have stated, elimination of opposition leaders. The Air Minister apparently thought the problem was resolved with the dismissal of Brigadier ITAMAR ROCHA who was not in agreement with the Air Minister's actions. Since the dismissal of Brigadier

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18. ATTACHMENT DATA:

1 Enclosure (U)  
Newspaper Article from  
O Estado de Sao Paulo,  
1 cy, 2 pages.

REQUEST ENC FROM DIAAP-10A

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REPLACES DA FORM 1048, 1 AUG 60.  
OPNAV FORM 3820 (Rev 10-61)

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

CONTINUATION SHEET

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ORIGINATOR [REDACTED]

ITAMAR a number of the FAB officers have been choosing sides in support of the Air Minister or Brigadier ITAMAR. As of this date, according to FAB sources, the Air Minister has everything under control; however according to newspapers former Air Minister EDUARDO GOMES has stated that the FAB is in a state of serious crisis. Whatever the outcome, this internal squabble is likely to generate a few enemies within FAB and make the Air Minister's job considerably more difficult, at a time when he needs strong support for his forthcoming decision relating to the A4F, etc.

2. (C/NED)

50X1 HUMINT

the PARA-SAR unit was in fact trained in "special contingency operations" which basically was as plainclothes observers during student riots or similar uprisings. When certain junior officers reported this to Brigadier ITAMAR ROCHA (FAB Air Routes, who has PARA-SAR operational control only during active emergency rescue missions), he apparently thought that they were being used outside their military mission, and continued to investigate though the Air Minister had directed that he stop the investigation. This caused the Air Minister to recommend to the President that he dismiss Brigadier ITAMAR ROCHA, which he did. The aftermath of this dismissal has resulted in hard feelings, choosing of sides, and newspaper speculation as to the final outcome of this current problem.

3. (C/NED) The two sources mentioned above have definitely supported the Air Minister, but according to another well informed source, there may be more lined up against the Air Minister than those in support. One person, former Brigadier EDUARDO GOMES, apparently is not a supporter of the Air Minister and his influence could be substantial. The (political) mission for which the PARA-SAR unit was trained and the degree to which they were to take action are not clear at this time. The unit's actions are certainly under suspicion as being outside true military search and rescue operations, but whether the direction came from Brigadier JOAO PAULO MOREIRA BURNIER at the knowledge of higher officials, such as the Air Minister, Army or the President, is unclear. It is the opinion of the Air Attache that the problem most likely goes beyond the actions of one individual; however, the real core of the present dissension within FAB rests with Brigadier BURNIER, who is probably taking certain actions which are not within his realm of responsibility and that in order to put the FAB case back in order it will be necessary to put a stop to his actions, one way or another.

4. (U) As of this date, 11 October 1968, the situation is receiving very little public/or press attention. Indications are that the President is supporting the Air Minister and the latter has been publicly proclaiming that the matter is closed. Brigadier ITAMAR ROCHA has not been reinstated by the Air Minister, and Brigadier ITAMAR ROCHA has now reportedly submitted his request to a military Court of Justification.

COMMENTS: (C/NED) The RO feels that the PARA-SAR incident was misrepresented by unscrupulous press and agitating politicians in an effort to discredit the Brazilian Air Force. PARA-SAR may have been used/or intended to be used against student riots, but RO seriously doubts the claims that it was going to be employed as an assassination squad. It is very unlikely that any action will be taken against the Air Minister or Brigadier BURNIER, and the Air Force situation will probably return to normal in another two weeks.